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April 7, 2015

Mr. Daniel Saunders
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Re: NCR39693
Beach Haven Borough Hall
300 Engleside Avenue
Beach Haven, Ocean County, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Saunders:

On behalf of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Dewberry is seeking consultation with regard to the Beach Haven Borough Hall reconstruction project, which is being funded through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery (DR) funds administered through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's (EDA) Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) program. The proposed project involves the demolition and reconstruction of the existing Beach Haven Borough Hall at 300 Engleside Avenue, Beach Haven, Ocean County, New Jersey. This project was previously reviewed by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJHPO) on November 6, 2014 with a finding of No Historic Properties Adversely Affected (HPO Project No. K2014-056).

The proposed project was originally submitted to NJHPO with a scope of work that included the demolition of the existing single-story 6,780 square foot borough hall building and the reconstruction of a new two-story approximately 13,000 square foot borough hall. The proposed new building would be built within the footprint of the existing building and would incorporate the Beach Haven Police Department headquarters. In addition, the proposed new building would be constructed to an elevation of nine feet above the base flood elevation (BFE). The project would also involve sidewalk installation along Engleside Avenue and Bay Avenue, and grading and landscaping.

Subsequently, the applicant informed NJDEP that they are seeking to revise their scope of work for the project. Concurrent with the Borough Hall reconstruction, the Borough has been pursuing NCR grant funding for the rehabilitation of their Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at 420 Pelham Avenue (approximately 1 mile to the south of the Borough Hall). The Borough has decided, however, that the most efficient approach would be to abandon the EOC rehabilitation project and amend the scope of the Borough Hall reconstruction to incorporate the addition of EOC offices.

The applicant's revised scope of work would no longer involve construction solely within the footprint of the existing building. Instead, the existing Borough Hall would be demolished and

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its footprint would be expanded by approximately 3,300 square feet, with additions to the rear (west) and front corners (north and south) of the building. An approximately 5,000 square foot second story will be constructed (as was also the case in the previous scope of work), resulting in overall approximately 15,000 square feet of space.

Due to the presence of nearby two-story commercial and residential structures, it is anticipated that the revised project will have no visual impact on the nearby Beach Haven Historic District. Therefore, we recommend a finding of No Historic Properties Adversely Affected. In addition, the project is located on a barrier island with an overall ground disturbance of less than five acres and is not located near any previously known archaeological site or shipwreck. As such, the project is not subject to archaeological review as per the May 2013 Programmatic Agreement.

We request your concurrence that the proposed revised scope still represents a finding of No Historic Properties Adversely Affected. A concurrence line has been provided to facilitate your review. For your reference we have included the project's previous concurrence and a copy of the revised site layout plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at swieczorek@dewberry.com or by telephone at 973-576-0151.

Sincerely,



Scott Wieczorek, RPA
Cultural Resources Specialist

Attachments

☒

I concur that the proposed undertaking will constitute a finding of No Historic Properties Adversely Affected.

☐ I do not concur for the following reasons:



Daniel Saunders,
Acting Administrator and
Deputy Historic Preservation Officer

4/9/15

Date